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JAPANESE LEADERS PUSH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

NEW YORK -- The headmaster and the chaplain of St. Andrew's Boys High School of Osaka, Japan, have made an extensive tour of the United States seeking to "foster and strengthen" a student exchange program between St. Andrew's and American Episcopal schools.

Mark T. Takeda and the Rev. Andrew K. Nonome said in an interview with Susie Bennett, Executive Coordinator of the National Association of Episcopal Schools, at the Episcopal Church Center in New York, that during the nine years' existence of the program 44 students from Japan have studied in the United States and 19 Americans in Japan.

During one academic year the students normally live with a family and participate as much as they can in the new society. "This experience is invaluable and contributes to the formation of a person of broader perspectives and ideas," said Takeda.

Nonome pointed out that the program has helped the students to understand better their respective countries at their return. "Even when not all the students are Christians they understand that the program is based on Christian principles," he added.

St. Andrew's was founded in 1884 by the Church Missionary Society of England and is presently owned by the Nippon Sei Ko Kai (The Holy Catholic Church of Japan). It has an enrollment of 2,250 students in grades 10-12.

The Japanese Church operates 22 secondary schools with a total enrollment of 30,000 students and Rykkio University in Tokyo, with 12,000 students. Most of the educational system is self-supported.

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